

The Memorial of
George Fordyce Story, Doctor
in Medicine, late Colonial
Assistant Surgeon in Van
Diemens Land

Respectfully Sheweth

That Memorialist
emigrated to Van Diemens Land in
1828 arriving towards the end of the year
and was appointed by Lieutenant
Governor (now Sir George) Arthur
District Assistant Surgeon to Great
Swan Port in April 1829.

That from the District being
very remote, lately opened, and the few
inhabitants, from the peculiar features
of the District, widely separated, the hope
of adding by Private Practice to the

2
small allowance of a District Assistant
Surgeon was out of the question, and
therefore as an inducement to Memorialist
to accept the Appointment the Commissariat
Stores at Waterloo Point were placed
under his charge, first as Commissariat
Storekeeper and subsequently as Commissariat
Clerk, until January 1834 when the
Office was abolished.

That the District, for some years,
was infested with a very hostile tribe of
Aborigines, who were frequently committing
acts of violence upon the Inhabitants
and so dangerous was travelling considered
that a Garrison Order prohibited a Soldier,
proceeding on Route, alone.

That in attending upon the
Military & Convicts, who suffered from
the attacks of the Aborigines, Memorialist
encountered much arduous and hazardous
duty, from the length of the Journeys,
the difficulty of following in many
cases the almost imperceptible foot-tracks
(there being no Roads) the danger from
the

1

The Memorial of George Fordyce Story
Doctor in Medicine ^{Late} Colonial Assistant
Surgeon in Van Diemens Land
Respectfully Sheweth

That Memorialist emigrated
to ~~Van Diemens Land~~ ^{Van Diemens Land} in 1828 arriving ^{towards} the end
of the year & was appointed ~~Assistant Surgeon~~

by Lieutenant Governor (now Sir George) Arthur
District ^{of the} Surgeon to Great Swan Port in April 1829.

That from the District being very
remote, lately opened, and the few inhabitants
from the peculiar features of the District
widely separated, the hope of adding by
Private Practice to the small allowances
of a District Asst Surgeon was out of the question
& therefore as an inducement to Memorialist
to accept the appointment ~~at Waterloo Point~~
at Waterloo Point were placed under his charge
the Commissariat Stores ~~and the~~ ^{his charge}
first as Commissariat Storekeeper and subsequently
as Commissariat Clerk ~~until~~ ^{until} January 1834 when the Office
was abolished

That the District of Great Swan
Port ^{was} is a very extended one stretching along
the Coast of Byster Bay for more than
60

60 miles, but from a Tier of impassable Hills running nearly parallel to the Coast & at no great distance from it, necessarily narrow except in two or three places which lead to other settlements.

That the District ^{for some years} was infested for ~~some years~~ with a very hostile tribe of Aborigines who were frequently committing acts of violence upon the Inhabitants and so dangerous was travelling considered that a Garrison Order prohibited a Soldier, proceeding on Route, ~~alone~~ ~~however short the distance without a proper~~ ~~accompanying~~ ~~troop~~

That in attending upon the military & convicts who suffered from the Attacks of the Aborigines Memorialist ~~encountered~~ ~~encountered~~ much arduous & hazardous duty from the ~~excessive~~ length of the Journeys ~~and~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~District~~ the difficulty of following in many cases the almost imperceptible

imperceptible foot tracks, (there being no roads,) the danger from the Aborigines lurking amongst the Trees, (Memorialist having mostly to travel alone) and the crossing of the various Rivers ^{when} swollen by ~~the~~ Rains

That after the Removal of the Aborigines from the Island, other duties arose, in the attendance of Road Parties in those Papers in the ~~the~~ Mountains which led to other Settlements, entailing much Labour & Privation upon Memorialist as the ^{parties} were mostly situated in places that were difficult of access.

Mr. J. D. of the S. Port was of so great an extent that in 1832 it was thought necessary to divide it.

That so great was the extent of the District of Great Swan Port ~~that~~ it was considered necessary in 1832. to form it into two Districts yet from ~~therefore~~ the new District that of ~~being no Surgeon appointed to the "Spring Bay" District~~ Memorialist as being mostly without a Surgeon. Memorialist was called upon to attend ^{the Government Duties there} ~~both Districts~~ equally with that of Great Swan Port without any extra allowance ~~as before pay or allowance~~

A. L. Lush in November 1845 -
vis from 10^{mo} 40 to 11^{mo} 41 = 13^{mo}

refused"

wrote - to the Secy of the
stating his wish to ^{be allowed to} resign and as he intended
to turn

"Actual length of Service under the
Government 16 years - 11 Months - 21 Days"

Rec'd of
we have
Service
more to

Medical Department, I have the honor to
acquaint you that your Name has been
included in a Return of Medical Officers
whose services have been dispensed with,
and whose cases are to be brought under
the notice of the Secretary of State.

I am, for your information, an

D. Storey

Respect

Great Room York

End

Extract

" No 6. G. F. Storey M.D. App^d Assistant Surg 10 Dec 1845
 Period of Service ^{years} 4 - ^{months} 4 - ^{days} 2 - Daily Rate of Pay ^{s & d} 7/6
 Remarks - British Assistant Surgeon Crosses
~~Maine from Jan^y 1862 to May 1863 at Waterloo~~
 Point from 1 April 1829 to 31 December 1861 when he
 resigned - Reappointed British Assist Surg at
 Great Swan Port June 1862 - reduced 31 March 1864
 Appointed Col. Assist Surg. Rocky Hills 10 Dec 1865
 Actual

to turn his attention to agricultural pursuits
 which step he was induced to take from the improbability of obtaining
~~there being no probability of any increase~~
 to his ^{Salary} allowance even although he was then
 attending ^{a large} Probation Party at the Rocky
 Hills ^{in addition to his District duties;} there was however so much delay
 in obtaining ^{a medical man} another to supply his place
^{Memorialist} that in August ~~he~~ wrote to say that
 he was willing to remain provided ~~he~~
 he could obtain an increase of
~~received pay; was increased.~~ To this he
 received no reply ^{and} ~~but~~ in November he was
^{superseeded by} F. S. Leush ^{who} was appointed Colonial Off-
 Surgeon with $\frac{1}{6}$ per diem Rations & Quarters.
 That ~~notwithstanding~~ ^{after this appointment}
 it was found that ~~the~~ ^{the new} regulations ^{interfered with}
~~and the ability~~ of the Probation Station, the
 duties of District Assistant Surgeon
~~could not be properly attended to~~
^{most of the District duties} and ~~these duties~~ Memorialist had to
 perform without pay for seven months
 this, together with the delay ~~from~~ in
 appointing his successor obliged Memo-
 rialist to relinquish his intention
 of devoting himself to Agriculture

~~prosecute~~ ^{and} ~~the case being referred~~
~~to the Principal Med. Officer. Menor.~~
was again appointed Surgeon to the
District in ^{28th} June 1842

~~that he considered in again accepting~~
~~the ^{offer} of a Surgeon his services would~~
~~have counted from the date of his first appoint-~~
~~ment as he had never known such a~~
~~regulation to exist more particularly~~

That he continued as Dist. Off. Surgeon
until 30th March 1844 when a Regulation reduced
all the Dist. Off. Surgeons and being thus thrown
out of office he represented his case to ~~the~~
Lieut. Governor Sir Cardley Wm. & no
situation being then vacant in the Medical
Department by the interest of the Lieut.
Governor ^{Memorialist} ~~he~~ was appointed Secretary
to the Roy. Socy of S. D. Land for Art
Botany & the advancement of Science
when in November 1845 from ^{the state of} the finances
^{of that Society} he was necessitated to resign & in December
following was appointed Colonial

17

Assistant Surgeon to the Probation Party
at the Rocky Hills that in May¹⁸⁴⁸
he received an Intimation from the Principal
Medical Officer. that in consequence of the
^{necessary} reduction of ~~the~~ Probation Stations and
five Medical Officers from Sydney being to
be provided for ~~that~~ there was no hope
of further employment in the Medical
Department and that his Duties would
cease on the breaking up of the ^{Rocky Hill} Station
which occurred on 30th June 1848.

That Memorialist having ^{thus} detailed his
services for a period of more than nineteen years
would beg leave to remark that the Loss of the
emoluments of ~~the~~
the Commissariat Appointment was very great
and quite out of his control. that had he continued
in that Department to the present time his
length of service alone would have placed
him in very different circumstances
at any rate would have been entitled to half
pay had he been reduced, nor was this loss
compensated for by any increase ^{in his Medical pay} nor by
Private

Practice as from the peculiar ^{locality} ~~circumstances~~
of the District the inhabitants ~~are~~ ^{were} few &
widely separated & ~~even had the Population~~ ^{when it}

That in the performance of his ^{the} Duties as
District Officer & Surgeon ~~in the early period~~ ^{as before detailed} he
was often exposed to great danger, ~~when travelling~~
^{Both} travelling, from the Aborigines as well as ~~at~~ ^{that}
~~times from he had at great risk to cross the~~
~~and in crossing~~ Rivers swollen by ^{Rains} ~~the floods~~, that the great
~~extent of the District and the remote Stations~~ ^{so great that it was at length divided}
~~that visiting~~ the Road Parties entailed upon him many
arduous Journeys; That he ~~attended~~ ^{performed} the duties
of the Probation Station ^{at Rocky Hills} for 13 ^{mos} ^{1841. m. 7. 10. 9. 8. 7. 6.}
without the least remuneration for his services ^{250 200 100}
whereas his Successor was immediately placed
upon the allowances of Colonial Ap. Surgeon
That when desirous of turning his attention
to Agriculture he was unable to avail himself
of an opening which offered from the delay
in ~~relieving him~~ filling up the appointment
~~this leaving still the Duties of Dist Surgeon~~
~~to perform~~ ^{subsequently when} that he would have withdrawn his
resignation had the Principal Medical Officer
consented to an increase of Salary. ~~if it had~~

no reply was made to him although three months
~~had much less than that given to his~~
elapsed before a successor was appointed
~~successor~~

That no information was ever commu-
nicated to him ^{having} of his forfeiting his right
in the Colonial Medical Dept. where he would now stand ^{of priority} ~~in the~~
~~of priority~~ ^{as always} ~~considering~~ that ~~under the~~ ^{peculiar}
~~Memorialist~~ ^{Memorialist} ~~always~~ ^{Memorialist} ~~considering~~ that under the peculiar
circumstances in which he again accepted
the App^t of Dist. Ap^t Surgeon his services
would have been considered continuous
from the date of
his first appointment, as in fact ~~they~~
his services were ~~continuous~~ although his
pay ceased for seven months, ~~and as he~~
~~that~~ ^{that} in his appeal to Sir Darby Wolmer
on the reduction of Dist. Ap^t Surgeons ~~this~~
length of service as well ^{of} the nature of it
Sir Darby Wolmer ~~was~~ ^{being} pleased to say ~~to him~~
personally that no officer was more
deserving.

That the District of Great
Swan Port being ~~so~~ peculiar a locality
prevented the Population from becoming
so numerous as to maintain Memorialist
by private practice, if even the regulations
of the Probationary Party allowed it

That having continued so many
years a Servant to the Government and
arrived at the age of nearly 49 years with

a constitution ~~much impaired by~~ ^{not the strongest & the}
 best of his life ^{having} being passed in the
 service of Government he is ~~now~~ by the
 late ~~regulations~~ reductions and the ~~apparent~~
^{medical} of officers from the neighbouring Colony
 of ~~Wales~~ ^{Wales} ~~debarred~~ from all prospect of again being
 employed in the Medical Department
 and the seeking to establish himself in
 Private Practice ^{with impaired energies} ~~at his age with his consti-~~
~~tution~~ ^{it} (for these have been spent in a Service
 whose remuneration was such as to be a mere
 living without the possibility of laying aside
 that which ^{would} support him when unable to
 exert himself) is not now to be ~~hoped~~ ^{expected} for

That ~~Preventive~~ ^{Preventive} has set nothing
 forward in this Appeal to the Secretary
 of State but what is strictly true & can
 be verified by reference to the Lieutenant
 Governors & Officers under whom he has
 served ^{and who can all bear witness} ~~and he can appeal to all of them~~
~~to state~~ that he conducted himself throughout
 the whole period so as to merit their entire
 approbation & therefore leaves the
 matter in the hands of the Secretary

11

of State trusting that it may meet
with his very favourable consideration

Memorialist has then endeavoured to
depict to the Colonial Secretary an outline
of his peculiar position. and in conclusion
begs to add. that he has conducted himself
throughout his services so as to merit the entire
approbation of the different Lieut Governors
~~who~~ as well as the Principal Medical Officers
~~to~~ under whom he has served - that his pay
as Dist. Ast. Surgeon was only $3\frac{1}{2}$ per diem. with
an allowance of forage for a horse of $2\frac{1}{6}$ per diem.
that ^{the remuneration} what he has recd. has been a mere living
without the possibility of laying aside that
which would support him when unable longer
to exert himself. ~~Under these circumstances~~
he therefore respectfully submits his claims
to the Secretary of State. trusting it may receive
a favourable consideration.

The Memorialist has ^{to give an outline of the peculiar circumstances} thus endeavoured to depict
his case. ^{of the} to the Secretary ^{of the} to the Colonies an outline of his
^{of the} in w. he is now placed
peculiar position. His conclusion begs to add
that he has conducted himself throughout
his services so as to merit the entire approbation
of the different Lieut Governors as well as the
Principal Medical Officers ^{to} under whom he has served
that his pay as D. A. S. was a mere living without
the possibility of layg aside that w^h would support him
when unable longer to exert himself he theref-
rely submits his Mem. trust it may receive a favourable
consideration.

and that his pay has always been a mere
living
for the one in that stⁿ in w^{ch} his profession
with the possibility of laying aside that
places him to trust that his
w^{ch} would support him when unable to
exert himself & trust

That Memorialist having thus endeavoured
to depict an outline of the peculiar
circumstances of his case would beg leave
to add that he has throughout the whole period
so conducted himself as to merit the
approbatⁿ of the Lt Gov & P. M. Officers under
whom he has served & trust that this his
respectfully submitting this his appeal
~~appeal may meet with~~ to the Secretary
of State for the Colonies, trust that it
may meet with
a favourable consideration

George Henry

To Dr. Dawson R.M.O. 41 St. W. 1/12/40

I beg leave to return my thanks to thee for
offering to forward a Memorial for me to the Sec^y of State
and now enclose one in duplicate - I have not
~~addressed~~ it as I was in doubt whether it should be
addressed to the Home Sec^y or the Sec^y of State for the
Colonies but perhaps thou wilt oblige me by
addressing affixing the proper address or as I expect to
be in Town in a few days I will wait upon thee
and can then address it myself by thy direction

I remain
res^t G. H.

In the Colonies

Rocky Hill & Tully farms in 1838 by Major Turner